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A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE PELAGIC CEPHALOPODA FROM THE JAPAN SEA¹⁾

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The pelagic Cephalopoda is defined here to include the oegopsidean families of the order Decembrachiata (=Decapoda) and all the families of the order Octopodida with the exception of the primarily benthonic Octopodidae. These cephalopods are caught or observed only rarely or merely by chance, e.g., from the stomach of predatory fishes or being stranded ashore, except for a few species which are caught in quantities by commercial fisheries. Consequently, their specimens are usually rather rare and their records are widely scattered in literature. This is not exceptional for the fauna in the Japan Sea, either. It seems thus pertinent to compile such records and data in order to list up here preliminarily the pelagic cephalopod fauna of this marginal sea as far as possible. The geographical area covered by this study is the Japan Sea inclusive of the strait areas of Tsushima, Tsugaru, Sôya (La Pérouse) and Mamiya (Tartary). Mutsu Bay at the northern end of Honshu Island is also included, since the hydrography and the animal communities of the bay show a much closer affinity to those in the Japan Sea proper than to those in the Pacific area just east of the Tsugaru Straits. Common Japanese names are shown whenever they are available, and the localities and the sources of records are given as far as possible for each species in a hope to help further studies by local naturalists. New localities are marked by the sign (!). Short biological notes are given for certain remarkable species. Moreover, the localities of findings of empty shells of the tetrabranchiate *Nautilus* are listed additionally.

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Class CEPHALOPODA
Order DECEMBRACHIATA
Suborder TEUTHOIDEA
Superfamily Oegopsida
Family Enoploteuthidae

Enoploteuthis chunii C. ISHIKAWA, 1914 *Japanese name:* Hotaruika-modoki
Toyama Bay (C. ISHIKAWA 1914; MATSUNO 1914; SASAKI 1916; ICHIJIMA 1927); Izumozaki, Niigata Pref. (NAKAMURA 1925); off Noto Peninsula (TOKUHISA 1915); off Unkovsky Bay, southeast Korea (YAMADA 1937); 38°27'N, 137°09'E, in the stomach of the whiting *Theragra chalcogramma* (SHIMOMURA & FUKATAKI 1957, p. 274; TABATA 1958); off Tsuiyama, Hyôgo Pref., in stomachs of various predatory fishes (WATANABE et al. 1958).

Enoploteuthis theragrae TAKI, 1964 *J.n.:* Taraba-hotaruika-modoki
Off the prefectures of Hyôgo and Fukui, in the stomach of the whiting in both cases (TAKI 1964); Ryôtsu Bay, Sado Island, in the stomach of the dealfish *Trachipterus ishikawai* (NISHIMURA 1964).

This species seems very common in moderate depths of the Japan Sea, since it is found frequently in the stomach of the whiting taken from various places (!). Allied very closely to the preceding species.

Abralia japonica M. ISHIKAWA, 1929
Toyama Bay (M. ISHIKAWA 1929).

NAKAMURA (1925, p. 413) refers under the Japanese name 'hotaruika-modoki' to an enoploteuthid which lacks photophores on the tip of the IV arms. Is this enoploteuthid identical with the present species? No mention as to its exact locality.

Abralia sp.

? Namerikawa, Toyama Pref. (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967, p. 14: an intermediate form between *Abralia andamanica* GOODRICH and *A. multihamata* SASAKI).

Watasenia scintillans (Berry, 1911) *J.n.:* Hotaruika
Toyama Bay (WATASÉ 1905; BERRY 1911; C. ISHIKAWA 1913b; SASAKI 1914, 1916; ICHIJIMA 1927; TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Noto Peninsula (TOKUHISA 1915); east of Noto Peninsula, 527–548 fms (SASAKI 1920); Wagi, Sado Island (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Nishikubiki, Niigata Pref. (NAKAMURA 1925); Nishitagawa-gun, Yamagata Pref. (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); off Tsuiyama, Hyôgo Pref., in stomachs of various predatory fishes (WATANABE et al. 1958); near Cape Clonard, Korea, 70–150 fms (SASAKI 1920); 60 miles east of Change Point, southeast Korea,

in the stomach of the chub mackerel *Scomber japonicus* (YAMADA 1937); 45 miles SSE of Ullong Island, in the stomach of the chub mackerel (YAMADA 1937); off Chumunjin, east Korea, in the stomach of the whiting (YAMADA 1937).

This squid seems very common in the Japan Sea. Abundantly caught in Toyama Bay by set net (SASAKI 1914; MATSUNO 1921). It is also frequently found ingested in stomachs of various predatory fishes; however, records of this species in the fish stomach analysis made prior to 1955 by Japanese fisheries biologists may often include some different enoploteuthids else. Pelagic squid eggs commonly found in the surface layer throughout the Japan Sea but mainly off eastern Korea and west Honshu were supposed by YAMADA (1937), YAMAMOTO (1942), SHIMOMURA & FUKATAKI (1957) to belong to this species; this identification is, however, not yet confirmed definitely.

Abraliopsis morrissi (VÉRANY, 1837)

Central Japan Sea (AKIMUSHKIN 1963, fig. 48).

Very probably AKIMUSHKIN's record was based on young specimens of *Watasenia scintillans*.

Family Gonatidae

Gonatus magister BERRY, 1913

J.n.: Dosuika

Off Iwanai, Hokkaido, 428 fms (SASAKI 1920); Sado Straits (OKIYAMA 1965); Nishikubiki, Niigata Pref. (NAKAMURA 1925); Toyama Bay (SASAKI 1916; ICHIJIMA 1927); off Noto Peninsula (TOKUHISA 1915); around Oki Islands, 330 m (HAMABE 1965, p. 123); near Cape Clonard, southeast Korea, 400 fms (SASAKI 1920); off southern Maritime Province (KONDAKOV 1941; AKIMUSHKIN 1963, fig. 53).

Cold-bathypelagic species. OKIYAMA (1965) considers that this is common in the Japan Sea.

Gonatus fabricii (LICHTENSTEIN, 1818)

J.n.: Tekagiika

Peter the Great Bay (KONDAKOV 1941; AKIMUSHKIN 1963, fig. 50).

Gonatopsis borealis SASAKI, 1923

J.n.: Takoika

Around Hokkaido (YAMAGUCHI & YAMADA 1955); northern Japan Sea, expedition sample (!).

TOKUHISA (1915) refers to a kind of squid which is called 'takoika' and said to be found in the deep waters of Toyama Bay. This might be *G. borealis*.

Family Onychoteuthidae

Onychoteuthis banksi (LEACH, 1817)

J.n.: Tsuméika

OKIYAMA (1965) lists this species as a member occurring in the Japan Sea. This

is based on a specimen from the stomach of a salmon shark *Lamna ditropis* caught off the west coast of northern Sakhalin in the spring of 1963 and identified by H. FUKATAKI of the Japan Sea Regional Fisheries Research Laboratory. NAKAMURA (1925) records ? *O. banksi* from Izumozaki, Niigata Prefecture.

Moroteuthis robusta (VERRILL, 1876)

J.n.: Nyûdôika

South of the Tsugaru Straits (ISHIKAWA & WAKIYA 1914).

The exact locality of this record is uncertain; however, ISHIKAWA & WAKIYA's statement that it was found in the stomach of a sperm whale *Physeter catodon* suggests that it came not from the Japan Sea but from somewhere else in the Pacific south of the east entrance to the Tsugaru Straits, viz. off Sanriku District of northeastern Honshu, because the sperm whale usually migrates off Sanriku District but never enters the Japan Sea through the Tsugaru Straits.

Family Ommastrephidae

Ommastrephes bartrami (LESUEUR, 1812)

J.n.: Bakaika

Tsugaru Straits (SASAKI 1929a; TAKI 1965; !); Toyama Bay (ICHIJIMA 1927); around the Yamato Bank, central Japan Sea (TAKI 1965); Oki Islands (HAMABE 1962); Ôi coast, Abu-gun, Yamaguchi Pref. (TANAKA 1950).

Todarodes pacificus (STEENSTRUP, 1880)

J.n.: Suruméika

Hakodate (STEENSTRUP 1880; BERRY 1912; SASAKI 1916, 1920; TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Takashima, Hokkaido (SASAKI 1916; TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Oshoro, Hokkaido (SASAKI 1916; TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Shioya, Hokkaido (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); off Shakotan, Hokkaido (SASAKI 1916); off Ôhana-misaki, Hokkaido (SASAKI 1916); Obuyu-saki, Hokkaido (SASAKI 1916); Todohokke, Hokkaido (WÜLKER 1910); Tsugaru Straits (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Asamushi, Mutsu Bay (SASAKI 1929a); Shônai Prov., Yamagata Pref. (SUZUKI 1963); Niigata (C. ISHIKAWA 1913a); Ryôtsu, Sado Island (SASAKI 1920); Toyama Bay (C. ISHIKAWA 1913a; SASAKI 1916; ICHIJIMA 1927; TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Uetsu, Noto Peninsula (SASAKI 1916); Oki Islands (SASAKI 1920, 1921, 1929b; HAMABE 1965); Iwami Prov., west Honshu (C. ISHIKAWA 1913a); central Japan Sea (ITO et al. 1965); Tsushima Islands (YAMAMOTO 1946; TANAKA & IIZUKA 1965); off Cape Clonard, Korea, 70 fms (SASAKI 1920); east and southeast Korea (YAMAMOTO 1942, 1946); around Utsuryô-tô Island (YAMAMOTO 1942, 1946); Peter the Great Bay (JOUBIN 1879; KONDAKOV 1941; KONDAKOV in SLEPZOV 1955; AKIMUSHKIN 1963); Maritime Province (KONDAKOV 1941; AKIMUSHKIN 1963); Tartary Straits (KONDAKOV 1941; AKIMUSHKIN 1963).

Very abundant in both the coastal and offshore waters; primarily in the epipelagic layers. An extensive seasonal migration is known.

Family Architeuthidae

Architeuthis sp.

J.n.: Daiôika

Arahama, Kashiwazaki-shi, Niigata Pref., Feb. 6, 1960, stranded; mantle length 1.3 m, total length 3.5 m, weight 112 kg (NISHIMURA 1960b); Ashiya, Hamasaka-machi, Hyôgo Pref., Feb. 4, 1958, stranded; total length 4.1 m, weight ca. 150 kg (KAMITA 1962); Ôi, Hirata-shi, Shimane Pref., Jan. 23, 1961, stranded; total length 2.6 m, weight 41.2 kg (KAMITA 1962); Susa Bay, Yamaguchi Pref., February 1941; mantle length ca. 1.5 m, weight ca. 180 kg (TANAKA 1950); off Hagi, Yamaguchi Pref., Feb. 7, 1958; total length ca. 6 m, weight 170 kg (KAMITA 1962).

Unidentified giant squids were caught at the following localities in the Oki Islands (HAMABE 1957); very likely they were *Architeuthis* sp.: off Kuniga, in the beginning of the Shôwa Era [1926], in early spring; Uragô Bay, some time before the preceding record; Misaki, Dec. 14, 1957.

Specific identification of the specimens mentioned above were impossible, but all might be *Architeuthis japonica* PFEFFER, 1912. It is seen from the above-given records that the occurrences which were recognized mostly by stranding are concentrated in winter to early spring and more densely on the coast of San'in District, west Honshu, than in more northerly districts. Such a trend may suggest that *Architeuthis* is originally an inhabitant of the warm waters in the Pacific, carried into the Japan Sea through the Tsushima Straits by warm ocean currents in summer to autumn and then affected by the marked cooling of the water starting in late autumn in this marginal sea to be paralysed, brought by the drift currents toward the shore, especially in the western half of Honshu Island, and eventually washed ashore. The population of this species in the Japan Sea may be allogetic, as supposed already by S. IWATA in KAMITA (1962).

Family Thysanoteuthidae

Thysanoteuthis rhombus TROSCHER, 1857

J.n.: Sodéika

Yoichi, Hokkaido (KINOSHITA 1939); Wakimoto, Hokkaido, facing the Tsugaru Straits (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); off Ôhata, Aomori Pref. (I. OKACHI in NISHIMURA 1966); Aomori Bay, Nov. 9, 1966 (!); Horotsuki, Aomori Pref. (M. TANABE in NISHIMURA 1966); Fukuma, Aomori Pref. (M. TANABE in NISHIMURA 1966); Akita Pref. (M. OKIYAMA in NISHIMURA 1966); Atsumi, Yamagata Pref. (!); Nezugaseki, Yamagata Pref. (!); Iwafune-gun, Niigata Pref. (NISHIMURA 1966); Niigata (NISHIMURA 1966); Maki-machi, Niigata Pref. (NISHIMURA 1960a); Teradomari, Niigata Pref. (NISHIMURA 1966); Naoetsu, Niigata Pref. (NISHIMURA 1960a); Itoigawa, Niigata Pref. (NISHIMURA 1966); Washizaki, Sado Island (NISHIMURA 1960a); Ryôtsu, Sado Island (NISHIMURA 1966); Kanaizumi, Sado

Island (IWASAWA 1962); Etchû Prov. [Toyama Pref.] (SASAKI 1916); Toyama Bay (Toyama Pref. Fish. Exp. Stat. 1965; Y. MORITA in NISHIMURA 1966); Noto Peninsula (TOKUHISA 1915; SASAKI 1916); Uetsu, Noto Penin. (NISHIMURA 1966); Echizen-machi, Fukui Pref. (SAMON 1964; I. OKACHI in NISHIMURA 1966); Tsuruga (Fukui Pref. Fish. Exp. Stat. in NISHIMURA 1966); Tango Prov. [Kyoto Pref.] (SASAKI 1916); Maizuru, Kyoto Pref. (NISHIMURA 1966); Kasumi, Hyôgo Pref. (TSUTSUI et al. 1963); Karo, Tottori Pref. (NISHIMURA 1966); Saigô, Oki Islands (KAMITA 1962); Uragô, Oki Islands (HAMABE 1962; S. IWATA in KAMITA 1962; Y. KIMURA in KAMITA 1965); Tsuma, Oki Islands (Y. KIMURA in KAMITA 1965); Shimane-mura, Shimane Pref. (KAMITA 1962); Koryô-mura, Shimane Pref. (NISHIMURA 1966); Shizuma-machi, Shimane Pref. (KAMITA 1962); Hamada, Shimane Pref. (S. IWATA in KAMITA 1962; K. NAKANO in NISHIMURA 1966); Masuda, Shimane Pref. (KAMITA 1962; K. NAKANO in NISHIMURA 1966); Takayama, Yamaguchi Pref. (K. NAKANO in NISHIMURA 1966); Hagi, Yamaguchi Pref. (K. NAKANO in NISHIMURA 1966); Tsuyazaki, Fukuoka Pref. (S. MITO in NISHIMURA 1966); Shingû-hama near Fukuoka (TABETA & TSUKAHARA 1967); Fukuma-machi, Fukuoka Pref. (NISHIMURA 1966); Iki Island, northwest Kyushu (S. MITO in NISHIMURA 1966); Tsushima Islands (SASAKI 1929a); Pusan, Korea (M. ISHIKAWA 1933; YAMAMOTO 1942).

This is a migrant into the Japan Sea, being driven by warm ocean currents (NISHIMURA 1966).

Family Chiroteuthidae

Chiroteuthis imperator CHUN, 1910

J.n.: Yûreiika

NAKAMURA (1925, p. 413) records ?*C. imperator* from Shimojuku, Niigata Prefecture.

This interesting record remains, however, unverified.

Family Cranchiidae

Cranchia scabra LEACH, 1817

J.n.: Saméhada-hôzukiika

Nô, Niigata Pref. (MIZUSAWA 1964).

Crystalloteuthis behringiana SASAKI, 1920

Near the Sôya (La Pérouse) Straits (SASAKI 1920).

Order OCTOPODIDA

Suborder INCIRRATA

Superfamily Ctenoglossa

Family Amphitretidae

Amphitretus pelagicus HOYLE, 1885

Japanese name: Kuragédako

Maizuru, late April, 1965, by set net (A. OCHIAI, personal information, Sept. 18, 1967).

Superfamily Argonautida

Family Alloposidae

Alloposus mollis VERRILL, 1880

J.n.: Kantendako

Off Nô, Niigata Prefecture, Mar. 15, 1967, by trawl (MIZUSAWA 1967).

A large 'gelatinous' octopod trawled off Atsumi, Yamagata Pref., on Oct. 13, 1957, and reported in a local newspaper as a sea-bottom monster may belong to this species; it weighed about 20 kg.

Family Tremoctopodidae

Tremoctopus violaceus DELLE CHIAJE, 1830

J.n.: Murasakidako

Furubira, Hokkaido, Sept. 10, 1964 (UENO 1964); Yoichi, Hokkaido, Sept. 19, 1964 (UENO 1964); off Kinobe, Aomori Pref., Dec. 6, 1961 (!); Tobishima Island, Yamagata Pref. (C. SUGIHARA, personal information, Sept. 13, 1967); Yura coast, Tsuruoka, Yamagata Pref., Sept. 2, 1967, by angling (!); Niigata, Aug. 27, 1961 (NISHIMURA 1961); Ryôtsu, Sado Island, Aug. 30, 1961 (NISHIMURA 1961); Kanaizumi, Sado Island (IWASAWA 1962); Namerikawa, Toyama Pref., Oct. 29, 1956 (NISHIMURA 1961); Ishikawa Pref. (? Usetsu), Nov. 12, 1958 (Ishikawa Pref. Fish. Exp. Stat. 1958); Matsunami, Ishikawa Pref., Oct. 7, 1958 (!); Tsuruga, Sept. 12, 1964 (!); Tango Prov. [Kyoto Pref.] (SASAKI 1929a); Kasumi, Hyôgo Pref., Jul. 17, 1949 (YAMAMOTO 1951); Mihogaseki, Shimane Pref., Sept. 13, 1957 and winter, 1959 (KAMITA 1962); Hagi, Yamaguchi Pref. (TANAKA 1950); Shingû-hama near Fukuoka, rather frequently (TABETA & TSUKAHARA 1967); Pusan, Korea (YAMAMOTO 1942).

Evidently, most of the occurrences are recorded in late summer to early winter, but slightly delayed with the latitude. This suggests that *Tremoctopus* enters the Japan Sea at the peak of the warm ocean currents and follows mainly the course along the coastal branch of the Tsushima current keeping close to the west coast of Honshu up to the west coast of Hokkaido.

Family Ocythoidae

Ocythoe tuberculata RAFINESQUE, 1814

J.n.: Amidako

? Hakodate (SASAKI 1929a); Ryôtsu Bay, Sado Island, June 25, 1962, by set net (R. MIZUSAWA, personal information, Feb. 22, 1963); Kanaizumi, Sado Island (IWASAWA 1962); off Hagi, Yamaguchi Pref., Oct. 7, 1936 (TANAKA 1950).

Family Argonautidae

Argonauta argo LINNAEUS, 1758

J.n.: Aoigai

Yoichi, Hokkaido (KINOSHITA 1939; HASHIMOTO 1965); Iwanai, Hokkaido (SASAKI 1929a); Oshoro, Hokkaido (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); Hakodate (TAKI & IGARASHI 1967); off Ohata, Aomori Pref. (NISHIMURA 1968); Noheji, Aomori Pref. (TOBA 1935); Aomori Bay (SASAKI 1929a); west coast of Aomori Pref. ("Saikai Zokudan" 1758²⁾; TANABE & UKAWA 1958); Nezugaseki, Yamagata Pref. (SUZUKI 1963); Jûrizuka near Sakata, Yamagata Pref. (SUZUKI 1963); Tobishima Island (SUZUKI 1963); Sado and Echigo Provinces [Niigata Pref.] ("Tanki Manroku" 1832³⁾); Iwafune-gun, Niigata Pref. (NISHIMURA 1962); Niigata (NISHIMURA 1962); Kashiwazaki, Niigata Pref. (NAKAMURA 1925); Ryôtsu, Sado Island (IWASAWA 1962; IKEHARA 1965); Kanaizumi, Sado Island (IWASAWA 1962); Toyama Bay (ICHIJIMA 1927; SASAKI 1929a; KIKUCHI 1931; NISHIMURA 1962); off Noto Peninsula (38°33' N, 135°40' E) (H. FUKATAKI in NISHIMURA 1968); Awagasaki, Kaga Prov. [Ishikawa Pref.] (KUBOTA 1962); Ayukawa, Fukui Pref. (Fukui Municipal Mus. in NISHIMURA 1968); Niyû, Tsuruga, Oniyû and Ôi, all in Fukui Pref. (KURODA 1933); Takahama, Fukui Pref. (T. KURODA in KOBAYASHI 1954; KUBOTA 1962); Tango Prov. [Kyoto Pref.] (HIRASE 1907; YAGURA 1932); Tajima Prov. [Hyôgo Pref.] (YAGURA 1932; ITO 1967); Kokufu-machi, Shimane Pref. (KAMITA 1938, 1962); Masuda, Shimane Pref. (K. NAKANO in NISHIMURA 1967); Oki Islands (KAMITA 1965); off Oki Islands (37°17' N, 133°36' E) (H. FUKATAKI in NISHIMURA 1968); Kita-ura, Yamaguchi Pref. (Anon. 1965); Japan Sea coast of Yamaguchi Pref. (KAWAMOTO & TANABE 1956); Enmyôji coast near Ogura, northwest Kyushu (WAKITA 1967); Hakata Bay (OHSHIMA 1930); Fukuoka (TAKAHASHI & OKAMOTO 1948); Shingû-hama near Fukuoka (TABETA & TSUKAHARA 1967); Ulchin, east Korea (KAMITA 1938).

For the occurrence pattern and some biological peculiarities of this species in the Japan Sea, see NISHIMURA (1968).

Argonauta hians SOLANDER, 1786

J.n.: Takobuné

Aomori Bay (SASAKI 1929a); Oga Peninsula (NISHIMURA & WATANABE 1943); Nezugaseki, Yamagata Pref. (SUZUKI 1963); Toyama Bay (ICHIJIMA 1927); Tsuruga (KURODA 1933); Fukui Pref. (FURUKAWA & KUBOTA 1947); Tajima Prov. [Hyôgo Pref.] (YAGURA 1932; ITO 1967); Japan Sea coast of Yamaguchi Pref. (KAWAMOTO & TANABE 1956).

Argonauta boettgeri MALTZAN, 1881

J.n.: Chijimi-takobuné

Niyû, Fukui Pref. (KURODA 1933); Fukui Pref. (FURUKAWA & KUBOTA 1947);

2) "齊諧俗談"

3) "耽奇漫録"

Kuriya, Fukui Pref. (KUBOTA 1962); Tajima Prov. [Hyôgo Pref.] (YAGURA 1932; ITO 1967).

APPENDIX

Empty shells of *Nautilus pompilius* LINNAEUS, 1758 (*J.n.*: Ômugai) are rarely picked up on the coasts of the Japan Sea; published records include the following localities: Fukuura, Noto Peninsula (Anon. 1889); Chichii, Oki Islands (KAMITA 1962, 1965); Mita Bay, Oki Islands (KAMITA 1965).

Of course, these records are the results of the post-mortem drift of shells by ocean currents from the Recent habitat of *Nautilus* (HAMADA 1965).

Faunistic Notes

As described above, the pelagic cephalopod fauna of the Japan Sea consists of 14 (or 18) species of Decembrachiata and 7 species of Octopodida. Of these, the following five species are definitely autogenetic in this marginal sea:

Enoploteuthis chunii, *E. theragrae*, *Watasenia scintillans*, *Gonatus magister*, *Todarodes pacificus*

On the other hand, the following species are considered allogenetic, namely, they are migrants from the waters outside the Japan Sea and unable to reproduce within that sea under the normal condition:

Regular migrants—*Ommastrephes bartrami*, *Thysanoteuthis rhombus*, *Tremoctopus violaceus*, *Ocythoe tuberculata*, *Argonauta argo*

Occasional migrants—*Architeuthis* sp., *Cranchia scabra*, *Crystalloteuthis behringiana*, *Amphitretus pelagicus*, *Argonauta hians*, *A. boettgeri*

It is difficult at present to judge whether the following five species are autogenetic or allogenetic:

Abralia japonica, *Gonatus fabricii*, *Gonatopsis borealis*, *Onychoteuthis banksi*, *Alloposus mollis*

Of the autogenetic species, *Todarodes pacificus* is flourishing in the epi- to mesopelagic layers, all of the three enoploteuthids are predominant in the mesopelagic layer, and *Gonatus magister* is prevailing in the bathypelagic layer. All of these squids are very abundant in respective layers and play each an extremely important role in the bio-economy of the Japan Sea, either as a voracious predator upon smaller animals on one hand or as a ubiquitous prey for larger carnivores on the other hand.

It is interesting that the species listed above as regular migrants are all epipelagic animals living in the tropical and subtropical seas and transported into the Japan Sea by strong warm ocean currents. *Architeuthis* sp., *Cranchia scabra* and *Amphitretus pelagicus*, which are likewise tropical-subtropical species but live at deeper levels, are apparently rarer in the Japan Sea. Other warm-water meso- to bathypelagic cephalopods, *Taonius pavo* (LESUEUR) and *Opisthoteuthis depressa* IJIMA & IKEDA for instance,

can also be expected to penetrate into this marginal sea, though they are still undiscovered.

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